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January 25, 2007

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Ravalli County Commissioners

Mr. Gene Kammerman WGM Group, Inc. P. O. Box 16027 Missoula, MT 59808

Dear Mr. Kammerman:

Re: Signs on JCSL L.L.C. Property

This is in response to your email regarding "Signs on John Blanik (sic) property (1-33s1/s2)." The property is owned by JCSL L.L.C., of which John D. Blahnik is a member.

Enclosed is a copy of the deed which reserves the easement under which Lamar Advertising Company had placed signs on the property. The deed is to a 60 foot strip parallel to the highway and is described as follows:

A tract of land situated in the SE½NE½ Section 12, Township 6 North, Range 21 West, P.M.M., Ravalli County, Montana, and being more particularly described as follows:

Starting at the east 1/4 corner of Section 12, Township 6 North, Range 21 West, P.M.M., Ravalli County, Montana; thence West along the quarter section line 1489.5 feet to corner number one (1), the point of beginning of this survey; thence West along said quarter section line 60.7 feet to corner number two (2); thence North 08°56′ East 900.0 feet to corner number three (3); thence East 60.7 feet to corner number (4); thence South 08°56′ West along the west boundary of the Montana State Highway right of way 900.0 feet to corner number one (1), the point of beginning. Containing 1.24 acres more or less.

The deed reserves an easement:

"a. An easement over, along, upon, under and across the real property above described for the purposes of servicing, maintaining, repairing, expanding, replacing and installing two outdoor advertising signboards as in their present locations, and all equipment necessary or desirable for use therewith."

Lamar claims the easement is "in gross" and allows the placement of the signs anywhere within the deeded strip. We do not agree with that argument, as the easement specifically provides that the signs are to be "in their present locations." The deed was dated September 24, 1992. The Blahniks believe the easement would be extinguished when the signs were moved because of the highway expansion and, in Mr. Gene Kammerman WGM Group, Inc. January 25, 2007 page 2

fact, they were informed of that at the time they purchased the property.

Lamar previously provided us with a copy of the letter from the Commissioners that you sent me. Neither the Blahniks, JCSL L.L.C. nor the company that is leasing their property received notice of any hearing before the Commissioners. We do not believe the Commissioners were trying to interpret the deed, or otherwise affect the Blahniks' rights.

The Commissioner's letter specifically provides:

"It is also understood that this office <u>did not grant</u> a variance at the meeting..." (emphasis added)

Ravalli County's sign ordinance at Section 5.00 Standards. <u>Setbacks</u>. provides that:

"All off-premise signs shall be set back a minimum of one-hundred (100) feet from the public right-of-way..."

Since the deeded strip was only 60 feet wide, complying with the sign ordinance would place the sign outside the reserved easement. Of course, it is my clients' position that Lamar has no right under the deed to move the signs even if a variance were granted.

In the event any further discussions are made with the Commissioners, please make sure all proper parties are given notice and an opportunity to be heard. By copy of this letter we are specifically requesting that the Commissioners give notice of any such meeting to me and JCSL L.L.C. (P. O. Box 87; Big Arm, MT 59910).

Very truly yours,

Lawrence D. Johnson

LDJ:lc enc.

cc: JCSL L.L.C.

Ravalli County Commissioners Blahnik Construction Inc.
Lamar Advertising Company

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WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE, Made the 24 Today of September, 1992, between HARWIN COMPANY, a partnership of Missoula, Montana, Grantor, and DONALD E. CERTLI and PAULINE CERTLI, husband and wife, as Joint Tenants With Right of Survivorship, as to an undivided one-half interest, and ROBERT F. EVANOFF and KATHERINE EVANOFF, husband and wife, as Joint Tenants With Right of Survivorship, as to an undivided one-half interest, of __ P.O. Box 1230, Hamilton, Mt. 59840

WITNESSETH:

In consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars paid by the Grantees to the Grantor, the Grantor hereby grants, bargains, sells, conveys, warrants and confirms to the Gruntees the hereinafter described real property located in Ravalli County, Montana in the following manner:

DONALD E. OERTLI and PAULINE CERTLI, husband and wife, as Joint Tenants With Right of Survivorship, as to an undivided one-half interest, and ROBERT F. EVANOPP and KATHERINE EVANOPP, husband and wife, as Joint Tenants With Right of Survivorship, as to an undivided one-half interest.

Property Description:

A Tract of land situated in the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter of section 12, Township 6 North, Range 21 West, Montana Principal Meridian. More particularly described as follows:

Starting at the East quarter corner of section 12, Township 6 North, Range 21 West; thence West along the quarter section line a distance of 1489.5 feet to corner number one distance of 1489.5 feet to corner number one (1), the point of beginning of this survey; thence West along said quarter section line a distance of 60.7 feet to corner number two (2) (thence North 08° 56; Rast a distance of 900.0 feet to corner number three (3); thence East a distance of 60.7 feet to corner number four (4); thence South 08° 56; West slong the West Boundary of the Montana State Highway Bight of Way a distance of 900 0 feet to corner number one (1), the point of beginning. Containing 1,24 acres nore or 1888

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Recording Reference: Book 117 of Deeds, Page 274

SUBJECT TO:

- 1. Taxes and any assessment installments for 1992 and subsequent years.
- 2. Any easements or rights of way of record, or apparent.

Reserving unto the Grantor, its successors and assigns, (including, but not limited to, SUMMIT OUTDOOR ADVERTISING, INC.) the following easements:

- a. An easement over, along, upon, under and across the real property above described for the purposes of servicing, maintaining, repairing, expanding, replacing and installing two outdoor advertising signboards as in their present locations, and all equipment necessary or desirable for use therewith.
- b. An easement for view over, along, upon and across the real property above described. No landscaping, signs, structures, or impediments or obstacles to view of any nature shall be erected or suffered to exist on such real property which would in any manner obstruct the view of the outdoor advartising signboards described in 1., above enjoyed by traffic Southbound on U.S. Highway 93.

Together with all appurtenances.

The Grantor will WARRANT and DEPEND all right, title and interest of the Grantees in and to the above described real property and the quiet and peaceable possession thereof, against all acts of the Grantor and its predecessors in interest.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described real property unto the Grantees as Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship, as to each undivided one-half interest, to the assigns of the Grantees of each undivided one-half interest, to the assigns of the half sand assigns of the survivor of each undivided one-half interest, to the survivor and halfs and assigns of the survivor of each undivided one-half.

interest, Forever

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, on the day and year first hereinabove written. the Grantor has executed this

HI.RWIN COMPANY

John M. Hardenburgh Managing Partner

STATE OF MONTANA)

County of Missoula

on this Alla day of September me, the undersigned, a Notary Public for personally appeared JOHN M. HARDENBURGE, Managing Partner of the Partnership that acknowledged executed

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set affixed my official seal the day and year in this first above written. my band and certificate



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